



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

*Case of smallpox in Brownsville, Tex.*BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *January 7, 1899.*

SIR: I would respectfully invite your attention to the fact that a case of smallpox has been discovered in our city. Proper precautions have been taken to prevent the spread of the disease, and the house is flagged. Patient claims to have come from Laredo, Tex.

Respectfully, yours,

JOSEPH K. COMBE,
*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.**Smallpox in El Paso, Tex., and vicinity.*EL PASO, TEX., *December 31, 1898.*

SIR: In my weekly reports of inspection I have informed you of the existence of numerous cases of smallpox in El Paso, Tex., and Juarez, Mexico. Smallpox has been epidemic at some points in the territories of New Mexico and Arizona for almost two years. I have visited ranches, small hamlets, and schoolhouses, nearly 100 miles north of El Paso and vaccinated hundreds of children and other unprotected persons. The officials of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad ordered their employees to be vaccinated.

El Paso is the great commercial distributing point for New Mexico and Arizona, and for business reasons alone the facts regarding sanitary conditions in those Territories were suppressed and nothing was done to prevent the introduction of smallpox into El Paso. Since August last, there have been sporadic cases of smallpox in El Paso, but it was not generally known. Finally, about a month ago, several men were found on the streets with the disease and others with scabs on their faces. This caused a panicky feeling among the people and the newspapers tried to magnify it into an epidemic.

The board of health then became aroused to the gravity of the situation, and employed 2 professional men to go from house to house and vaccinate the unprotected Mexicans and others who were unable to afford the expense. By this means it was discovered that there were also a number of Americans afflicted with smallpox. The board of health then appointed an assistant health physician who, with 2 inspectors, made another house-to-house inspection, and this visitation showed that there had been about 45 cases of smallpox in El Paso since August last. The destitute were taken to the smallpox hospital, and others were permitted to remain in their own houses under quarantine. The situation has thus been very much improved. I have never believed an epidemic of smallpox was possible here because 98 per cent of the inhabitants are protected by successful vaccination. Amongst all the smallpox cases only 1 case developed amongst protected persons.

The authorities of Juarez, Mexico, have requested me to make a house-to-house visitation with their city physician to quarantine smallpox patients and to vaccinate all found not so protected, to which I cheerfully agreed, and will report on such work after I am through with the transaction.

The city of El Paso has now from 18,000 to 20,000 inhabitants. The custom house here ranks seventh in importance. It is one of the principal gateways into Mexico, and at a conservative estimate 10,000 Mexican immigrants pass through the city on their way to Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California. Most of these people take passage on the Mexican Central to Juarez, Mexico, and smuggle themselves